

TOWN OF ELLINGTON
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY**REGULAR MEETING**
TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2008

Members Present: Daniel Parisi (Chairman), Edward Duell, Tim Kiessling and Joe Stimac.

Others Present: Town Engineer, Jim Thompson of Buck & Buck, Leo Miller, WPCA Liaison, Peter Williams, WPCA Administrator and Jeanne Reed, WPCA Recording Secretary.

I. Call To Order

Chairman Daniel Parisi called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

II. Citizens Forum / Public Comments - None**III. Public Hearings****1. Proposed Changes to Residential Benefit Assessment Calculations**

Chairman Parisi opened the Public Hearing and read the legal notice into the record.

Pete Williams explained the proposed per bedroom benefit assessment charge for Crystal Lake and Hockanum. The proposed changes apply only to new construction or to new additions.

Mr. Williams explained that in Ellington there are specific criteria for a bedroom so the addition of other living space in a home will not cause the fee to increase. In concern for equity for the smaller homeowners, Mr. Williams suggested that the per bedroom charge apply only to a new addition that increases a home's bedrooms to four or more.

It was suggested that another way to calculate the sewer fee is by linking the fee to water usage. This option was considered but does not work for many homes in Town because they have wells. The cost of installing meters would be very expensive for these homeowners.

For commercial property assessments, the value will be changed to the building permit value. This would enable an assessment to be done before issuing a certificate of occupancy.

CHAIRMAN PARISI CLOSED THE PUBLIC HEARING AT 7:10 PM.

MOTION (DUELL) SECONDED (STIMAC) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSED CHANGE TO THE SEWER ASSESSMENT AS WRITTEN, WITH THE STIPULATION THAT ADDITION ASSESSMENTS WILL APPLY ONLY FOR ADDITIONS INCREASING BEDROOMS TO FOUR OR MORE.

2. Sewer Use Fee

Chairman Parisi opened the second Public Hearing at 7:15 and read the legal notice into the record.

Mr. Williams explained that the proposed rate is the same as present.

CHAIRMAN PARISI CLOSED THE PUBLIC HEARING AT 7:20 PM.

MOTION (KIESSLING) SECONDED (STIMAC) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO SET SEWER USER RATES AS PROPOSED.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

1. Facilities Plan Update

Mr. Thompson distributed his "Report on the Estimated Sewer Flow from a Fully Developed Crystal Lake Sewer Service Area that included a map of the Crystal Lake Sewer System. He stated that the report is an off shoot of the GIS study for the whole Town.

Mr. Thompson proceeded to explain the report and the map. He provided logistic data on the Crystal Lake System, ie. homes connected and gallons of flow per day. He said that the highest flow of 48,000 gallons occurred in June and was probably caused by higher rainfall and seasonal use. Mr. Thompson explained the formula that was used to determine the future allowable home construction in the area.

Mr. Williams pointed out that this was for the build-out analysis for Crystal Lake, and questioned if the build-out analysis was available for Hockanum.

Mr. Thompson explained the problem he was having relating the assessors information to that of the GIS in Ellington. The information does not match.

Mr. Williams reviewed the status of the facilities plan. Maps and flow history are available for Crystal Lake, next should be maps and flow history for the Hockanum system. After Buck & Buck completes the maps and flow history the Authority may want to set up a subcommittee to review the next steps of the Facility Plan. Jim Thompson and George Hicks would be available for help if needed.

Mr. Williams reiterated that the facilities plan steps are:

I. Preparing the maps and flow history, II. To review the regulations, and III. To write up the report.

George Hicks of the DEP explained that historic flow data are the basics of a facilities plan. They should include peripherals, determine where to concentrate development, and to determine future flows.

He explained that there are State funds available on a first come first serve basis. There is also a Nitrogen program whereby Towns can buy Nitrogen credits. The 55% planning grant may be of particular interest to the Town. Although this work has already begun, the project would need to be submitted to the qualifying process.

2. Stafford Treatment Plant Upgrades

Mr. Williams discussed his recent attendance at the Stafford WPCA meeting. He introduced himself at the meeting and said that he had come to open up communications and asked for a schedule of payments for the new plant upgrade.

3. Airport Extension

Airport Benefit Assessments –Public Hearing - reschedule

The Public Hearing was postponed on advice of council because work was not completed on the easements. The easements are part of the as-builts.

V. New Business

1. Plan of Conservation & Development / Flow Allocation Policy

The public Sewer Service portion of the Town's "Plan of Conservation and Development" was distributed to the Authority. A draft of the present flow allocation policy was reviewed as it relates to the Plan.

2. Sewer Backup 9 & 10 Pinney Street

The problem was a result of a 2X4 in the Sewer line. It is believed that the wood got into the line during construction about 20 years ago. Mr. DiCorleto has informed Mr. Williams that the Town is not protected by insurance for this incident.

The problem at 10 Pinney Street will cost about \$2,000 to \$3,000. However, Mr. Williams expects that 9 Pinney Street will cost about \$28,000. The gentleman at this location is experiencing a hardship as a result the back-up. Mr. Williams approved money for the homeowner to begin the necessary clean-up work. Leo Miller, the WPCA liaison said that North Central Health will need to investigate the property since the homeowner bailed waste out his window.

Edward Duell pointed out that the Town had obtained insurance for exactly this kind of problem after a similar incident had happened in the past. The WPCA will check into the Town's insurance policy.

A discussion ensued as to whether a back flow preventer would stop this from happening again. The consensus was that the flapper valves in these devices cause maintenance issues and cannot be relied upon.

3. Grease Traps / Inspections

Collection of a \$100 annual fee to inspect grease traps is part of the present fee schedule. Mr. Williams has no record of any traps being inspected or billed.

The Health Department inspects local restaurants and issues their certificates. Mr. Williams suggests that the traps do not necessarily need to be inspected by Public Works if the Health Department report can be obtained. This would document that the traps are being looked at.

The Health Department provided Mr. Williams with a list of all the food services on record in Ellington. In Hockanum there were 28 possible grease traps and 3 in Crystal Lake. According to the Health Department, by 2010 all properties will need approved grease traps per the State requirements.

4. Water Softener Backwash

The Acting Chief Operator of the Stafford WPCA requested that Mr. Williams no longer accept applications for hook-ups to the sewer system from Crystal Lake residents because of their use of water softeners.

The problem is that the concentrated backwash solids from the softeners is being put into the system and can cause a disruption in the flow. A discussion ensued regarding why or if this is a problem, the magnitude of the problem, other ways to resolve water quality issues and how to handle the immediate matter.

The Authority suggested that a letter be sent to all sewer users stating that if they use a softener they must either disconnect it or install a filter. Mr. Thompson suggested that he investigate the issue with the State before the letter is sent.

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE

1. Design, Construction & Maintenance Reports

Mr. Williams stated that there are no new designs, but that there are four conceptual approvals that he listed.

Because the laborers in Public Works received a retroactive raise Mr. Williams provided a recalculation of the monthly Public Work Report to account for this additional expenditure

2. Project/Permit Close Outs

51 Windermere Ave. – Chasseral Meadows

When people hook-up to the system the WPCA has to reimburse Chasseral Meadows, per the developer's agreement. As of July, four properties have hooked-up. At this time the WPCA owes the contractor \$4,221.00.

MOTION (DUELL) SECONDED (STIMAC) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO REIMBURSE CHASSERAL MEADOWS THE AMOUNT OF \$4,221.00.

7 Nutmeg Drive – Use Billings

The owner of the property had requested that the sewer bills be sent to the tenants. In the last meeting of the WPCA it was decided to send the bills to the owners because of the difficulties the Town has in determining which tenants owe the money.

However, in a prior meeting with the past WPCA Administrator and Town Planner they were told to install separate meters for each unit at considerable expense. The owner would have installed a single meter if he had known that he would receive the bill. Nutmeg has agreed to pay the bills per the WPCA motion but requests that the interest that accrued be waived on the present sewer bills that were held up until a clear understanding could be reached.

MOTION (KIESSLING) SECONDED (STIMAC) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO WAIVE THE INTEREST ON THE PRESENT SEWER BILLS.

3. Budget Report

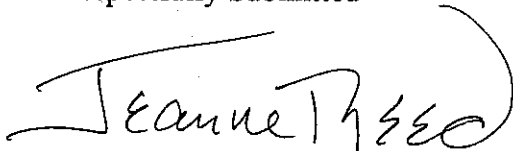
Finance Director, Nick DiCorleto will attend the next WPCA meeting and will provide a breakdown of the budget.

4. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes – December 11, 2007 – Minutes were not distributed.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION (DUELL) SECONDED (KIESSLING) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted



Jeanne Reed, Recording Secretary